

# Home Heating Oil Tank Outreach

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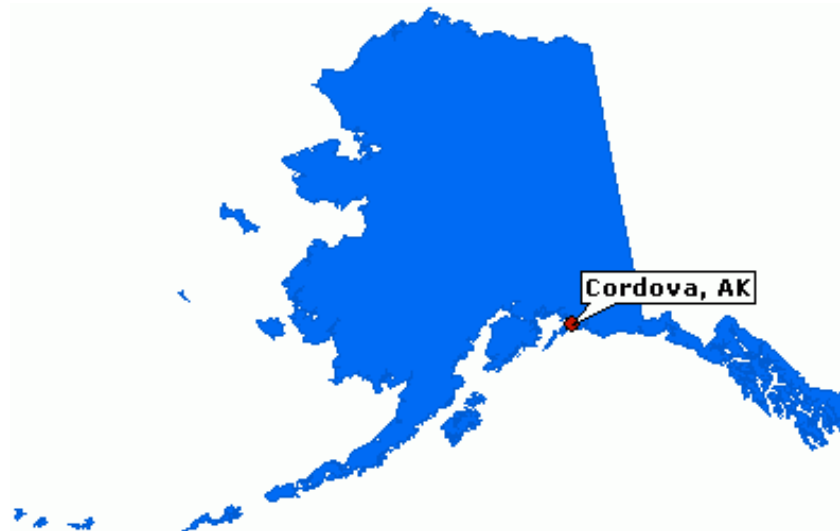
# Cordova is located in the Eastern Prince William Sound

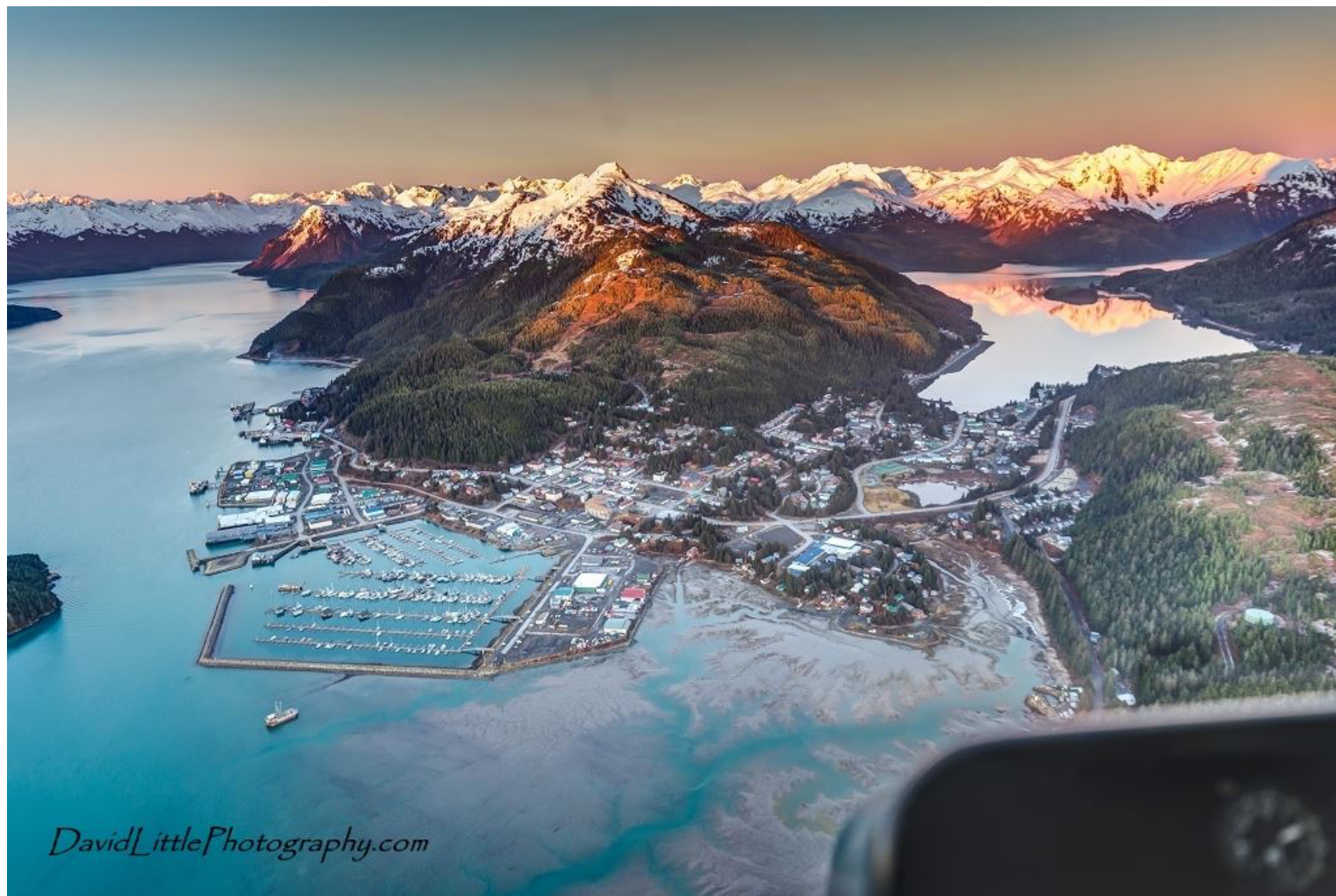
Population: 2,200  
(population doubles in  
summer months!)

Commercial Fishing  
Community

Devastated by the 1989  
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and  
1964 Great Friday  
Earthquake

Tourism includes: Sport  
fishing, heli-skiing,  
birdwatching





*DavidLittlePhotography.com*

# STRP Home Heating Tank Outreach Goals

- To keep oil, gasoline, and hazardous waste out of our waterways and on land
- Bring awareness to community members about dangers of leaking and abandoned home heating tanks
- NVE continually seeks to promote safe home heating oil tank maintenance and inspections
- NVE can assistance with spill prevention, reporting, response, and maintenance
- Home owners need to know threats with their heating tank, how to inspect their tank, and who to call in an emergency or with questions.
- NVE assists with reporting spills to ADEC when community members are uncomfortable to do so



# Native Village of Eyak's State and Tribal Response Program Timeline

2010 Tribal Council approves Oil Spill Prevention and Response as No. 1 priority for action

2011 STRP partners with ADEC for Home Heating Tank Safety

2012 & 2014 ITEP & ADEC teach 24 hour spill response to interested tribal and community members

2012 STRP partners with local fuel distributor for outreach and education

2012 STRP gives free home heating tank inspections upon request

2013 & 2015 Educational inserts sent to box holders with free oil incentive prize

Typical home heating tank in Cordova.  
There are approximately 1,260 fuel tanks in  
Cordova (2010 census)



# Did you know that fuel oil spills in residential areas can

- Contaminate drinking water wells, groundwater, and soil
- Foul septic systems which require replacement
- Cause odor and health problems in the home
- Contaminate stormwater drains, sewers, drainage ditches, and surface water
- Not only destroy your home and property, but your neighbors as well.
- Common causes of tank spills include corrosion, overfills, support failure, and sudden accidents such as ice or snow falling or earthquakes.

This old tank was replaced after one of my inspections. You could see water marks on the bottom, and a poor tank stand.





Some educational brochures that are found outside my office in Cordova



Aboveground Heating Oil Tank Inspection Guide, Home Heating Oil Tank Education Program, Home Heating Oil Tank Installation Guidelines, Fuel Out – Fish On!, Outboard motors, Underground Heating Oil Tank Inspection Guide.

All brochures available by ADEC.

**ATTENTION Homeowners, Realtors, and Fuel Distributors**

**ENTER TO WIN A 50 GALLON HEATING OIL**

gift certificate donated by Shoreside Petroleum! Drawing immediately following presentation. Must be present to win.

**What?** Home Heating Oil Tank Safety Presentation

**When?** May 1, 2012 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

**Where?** Mt. Eccles Elementary Commons

**Why?** Learn proper tank maintenance and how to prevent oil spills

**Did you know that fuel spills in residential areas can:**

- \* Contaminate drinking water, ground water, and soil
- \* Foul septic systems, requiring their replacement
- \* Cause odor and health problems in the home AND your neighbor's home
- \* Contaminate stormwater drains, sewers, drainage ditches, and surface water
- \* Cost homeowners tens of thousands to replace if damaged!

*Sponsored by Native Village of Eyak, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and Shoreside Petroleum.*



Community presentation  
by John Brown, ADEC,  
and myself from 2011.

Shoreside Petroleum  
donated to one lucky  
winner 50 gallons of  
home heating oil.



Native Village of Eyak  
Tribal Response Program

Home Heating Tank Tracking Form

Community: Cordova, Alaska

**Flood Period:**

*When does your community normally expect spring flooding? Ex: April 11 thru May 6th*

Tank ID: Document4

Location: Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lat/Long: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner, Renter, Lessee: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tank size: 55, 250, 300, 500, 750, 1,000, 5,000 Gallon Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Tank Fuel Volume During Flood Period: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ex: 40-60 Gallons*

Can the tank be secured to a solid structure or anchor point: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other observations or recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in a free tank inspection: Yes      No

Native Village of Eyak's Brownfield Tribal Response Program



HOME HEATING TANK INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Take a good look at your tank and answer the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check the area around tank for spills. Are there signs of oil (odors, sheens on water surfaces, visible puddles of oil, etc.?) If a spill has occurred, take steps to stop the leak and contact a specialist.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signs of spills or overfills around the fill pipe or vent line?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the tank have surface damage (rust, dents, wet spots, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the tank support system sturdy, solid, and secure?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the tank support system at least 6" off the ground and from buildings?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are the legs unstable or rusted through?

\_\_\_\_\_ Check all pipeline connections. Are there signs of leakage around the oil filter or valves?

\_\_\_\_\_ Check the fill cap. If damaged or missing, replace immediately. Oil and water do not mix.

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the vent line clear of obstructions (ice, snow, spider webs, bugs)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the tank have an operable shut off valve?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the overfill whistle function when filled by distributors?

\_\_\_\_\_ Signs of unexplained dead or withered vegetation in the area?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the tank, pipe or filter appear to be vulnerable to snow, ice, or icicles that may fall from the roof?



# 2015 brochure/insert that was distributed in Cordova to boxholders

## WIN 50 GALLONS OF HOME HEATING FUEL!

Please respond to the following questions and return your answer to the Copper River Watershed Project, Native Village of Eyak, or Shoreside Petroleum by November 6, 2015 to be entered to win 50 gallons of home heating fuel. Only one entry per household.

Responses can also be submitted online at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CGFFDL9>

1. Please complete an inspection of your home fuel tank using the checklist provided. Please circle the number(s) (below) of the questions to which you answered "no".

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. What are the challenges you face to maintaining your home fuel tank?

3. Will you pledge to inspect your fuel tank four times over the course of 2016 to ensure the tank, stand, and lines remain protected and in stable condition?

Circle one: Yes No

Why or why not?

Name:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Physical Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

NOTE: Contact information must be included to be eligible to win.

## PREVENTION IS KEY

Homeowners are legally liable for costs associated with cleaning up contaminated soils and water that result from a home fuel tank spill. *With proper care and maintenance, these costs can be avoided.* In the case of a spill, the faster you react to a spill, the cheaper the clean-up will be.

To report a spill locally, contact Cordova Dispatch at 424-6100.

State law requires all oil and hazardous substance releases be reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Cordova residents should contact the Central Alaska Response Team in Anchorage at (907)269-3063. Evening & Weekends: 1-800-478-9300

This brochure produced by the City of Cordova, Cordova Clean Harbor Project, Copper River Watershed Project and Native Village of Eyak, with support from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and Shoreside Petroleum.

## PREVENT OIL SPILLS AND SAVE MONEY TOO!

Taking time to learn more about maintenance and care of your home fuel tank can save you money. Did you know fuel spills can...

- ✓ contaminate local drinking water sources like Eyak Lake;
- ✓ reduce the value of your property;
- ✓ cause odor and health problems in you and/or your neighbors' homes;
- ✓ end up in Odiak Pond, Orca Inlet or Eyak Lake, home to salmon, the backbone of our economy.

## Use this checklist to inspect your heating oil tank.

Native Village of Eyak is available to assist with inspections. Contact 424-7738 for more information.

1) Does the fill pipe have a cover to keep water out and is the area around it free of stains?

☐ NO ☐ YES

2) Is the fuel system protected from overhead damage, such as falling ice, snow or trees?

☐ NO ☐ YES

3) If you have a fuel gauge and overflow alarm do they work?

☐ NO ☐ YES

4) Is the vent pipe clear of debris and insects?

☐ NO ☐ YES

5) Is the tank free of dents and rust? Is it painted to protect it?

☐ NO ☐ YES

6) Are the tank legs or stand the right size, in good condition and on a stable foundation? The tank should not be touching the ground.

☐ NO ☐ YES

7) Are the fuel lines protected (lines in the ground or concrete are inside liquid-tight conduit) from damage?

☐ NO ☐ YES

8) Is the fuel filter protected from damage and free of excess water?

☐ NO ☐ YES

9) Is the tank, especially the ends, free of stains or wet spots?

☐ NO ☐ YES

10) Is the fuel tank less than 15 years old? If not, you may want to consider replacing it.

☐ NO ☐ YES

## Tips for Underground Tanks!!

- **Check the tank for water!** Excessive amounts of water can indicate the tank is leaking and can corrode the tank from the inside. Ask your fuel provider to test your tank once a year.
- **Check for dead vegetation, sheen and odors in low areas!** These are all signs of a fuel spill.
- **How old is your tank?** Most underground tanks fail eventually, some in as little as five years. If you don't know how old your tank is, maybe it's time to replace it.
- **Are electric lines buried near the fuel tank or fuel lines?** Electrolysis can cause premature failure of the tank or fuel lines.

For more information on heating oil systems visit:  
[www.dec.alaska.gov/sparp/pep/nho.htm](http://www.dec.alaska.gov/sparp/pep/nho.htm)

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
 ADEC Area Response Team:  
 Anchorage: (907)269-3063  
 Evening & Weekends: 1-800-478-9300

## Other things for Cordovans to consider:

55-gallon drums are not suitable oil tanks. They are not designed for long-term use and are prone to rust and punctures. Fuel tanks available for sale at Shoreside Petroleum.

**Warning about Wood Stands:** Stands made from wood can collect water under the oil tank and speed up deterioration of fuel tanks. Using metal stands or placing lengths of poly-rope or tarpaper under a fuel tank can keep water away from tanks and protect tanks from corrosion.

Furthermore, treated wood contains preservatives that can corrode copper piping. Any fuel line passing through pressure treated wood should be encased in non-metal materials.

Keep your oil tank freshly painted to extend its life span.

Cordova is located near active fault lines and earthquakes are a possibility. Floodwaters can also endanger home heating tanks. Resources with ideas for securing fuel tanks during these kinds of natural disasters can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/FuelTank-Quake1>  
<http://tinyurl.com/FuelTank-Quake2>  
[http://www.aec.alaska.edu/html\\_docs/nextbigeq.html](http://www.aec.alaska.edu/html_docs/nextbigeq.html)

Before the snow flies, take time to protect your tank and lines from overhead damage from ice, snow, or trees!

## Home Heating Tank Partners

- Copper River Watershed Project
- City of Cordova
- Alaska Department of Conservation, Sprill Preparedness and Response
- Shoreside Petroleum

## Other awareness achievements

- Home heating tank danger articles in the Cordova Times and the NVE newsletter
- Radio announcements before and after winter to check your tank (before the snow flies!)

# Outreach Tips

- Be sure to use careful language in advertising!
- Many people who heard about the program thought they were getting FREE TANKS, not free TANK INSPECTIONS!
- People thought they were getting free heating oil
- Make sure you specify you are not a certified home heating tank inspector, that you are there to provide assistance
- Always bring a checklist on an inspection and make the owner go over it with you so they know how to do it in the future
- Always bring ADEC brochures to leave with home owners.

QUESTIONS?

